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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - JUNE QUARTER, 1938

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Employment in Factories. The number of persons employed in Australian factories in 1936-37 was 16% greater than in the pre-depression years of 1928-29, and 6% greater than in the year 1935-36. When the growth in employee population is taken into account, the 1936-37 index number was 5% greater than the 1928-29 and the 1935-36 figures, which were equal. During 1936-37 the latter index rose steadily for the first six months, and for the second six months remained steady at a level about 7% higher than the average for 1935-36. During the first nine months of 1937-38 this index rose by a further 9% on the average for 1936-37, but the index for May was only 6% above the 1936-37 average.

The following are the estimated percentage changes in factory employment from May, 1937 to May, 1938 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States):- New South Wales +5.9; Victoria +4.8; Queensland +3.7; South Australia -1.7; Western Australia +0.9; Tasmania +4.9; Australia +5.0 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, +2.8).

Employment in Retail Stores. The index numbers for Australia for the year 1936-37 indicate a 25% increase in employment since July, 1933 (the first date for which figures are available), and a 5% increase since 1935-36. When the growth of employee population is taken into account increases are 20% since July, 1933 and 4% since 1935-36. During the eleven months of 1937-38 there was a rise of 2% in the Australian retail employment index (adjusted) above the average level of 1936-37.

The following are the estimated percentage changes in employment in retail stores from May, 1937 to May, 1938 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States):- New South Wales +2.4; Victoria +2.2; Queensland +0.9; South Australia nil; Western Australia +1.8; Tasmania +4.1; Australia +1.6 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population +1.7).

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(BASE: Average for year 1928-29 = 100)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
Number of Employees, 1928-29	M. 129,539; F. 44,581; T. 174,120			M. 98,068; F. 51,198; T. 149,266			M. 35,581; F. 7,855; T. 43,436			M. 29,014; F. 6,362; T. 35,376			M. 16,039; F. 3,760; T. 19,799			M. 7,703; F. 2,281; T. 9,984			M. 315,944; F. 116,037; T. 431,981				
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Index for 1926-27	100	98	99	102	99	101	101	89	99	113	109	112	95	91	94	105	88	101	101	98	100	106	102	105
1927-28	99	97	98	100	98	100	101	92	99	106	106	106	98	97	98	107	104	106	100	98	100	102	100	102
1928-29	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30	90	91	90	96	98	97	95	94	94	87	89	87	94	98	94	105	99	104	92	95	93	91	93	92
1930-31	68	75	70	78	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64	68	76	69	85	83	84	73	79	75	71	76	72
1931-32	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	79	61	76	64	61	75	63	84	87	85	70	84	74	68	80	71
1932-33	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71	68	81	70	86	90	87	78	93	82	74	87	77
1933-34	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80	75	85	77	93	89	92	86	99	90	81	92	84
1934-35	93	107	97	106	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91	83	92	85	101	97	100	96	108	100	89	99	92
1935-36	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105	99	106	100	112	103	110	107	116	109	98	105	100
1936-37	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111	107	113	108	122	103	118	114	121	116	104	108	105
1936 - January	104	111	105	116	115	116	89	104	92	103	106	104	100	105	101	117	104	114	106	112	107	97	101	98
February	(c)104	118	(c)107	119	122	120	92	108	95	107	116	109	102	105	102	119	122	120	108	119	111	99	107	101
March	(c)105	122	(c)110	122	125	123	95	112	98	110	117	111	103	107	104	119	116	118	110	122	113	101	110	103
April	106	120	109	120	120	120	95	109	97	110	114	111	103	108	104	115	105	113	110	118	112	100	106	102
May	108	120	111	120	120	120	98	110	100	109	112	109	103	108	104	114	105	112	110	119	113	101	106	103
June	108	119	110	118	118	118	100	105	101	105	107	105	102	107	103	113	103	111	110	116	111	100	104	101
July (b)	107	119	110	117	116	117	104	112	106	104	106	105	104	111	106	112	100	109	109	116	111	100	104	101
August	108	122	111	118	119	118	106	117	108	103	109	104	104	111	106	111	96	108	110	119	112	101	106	102
September	109	124	112	120	121	120	110	120	112	104	111	105	104	113	106	114	99	110	112	121	114	102	109	104
October	110	126	114	123	123	123	109	122	111	103	111	105	106	115	108	118	99	114	113	123	116	103	110	105
November	112	127	116	124	123	124	107	119	109	105	112	106	108	115	109	121	99	116	114	123	117	104	110	106
December	112	125	116	124	120	123	103	117	105	110	113	111	110	116	111	124	103	119	115	121	116	104	108	105

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS
(Continued)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia						
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population			
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
1937 - January)	111	118	113	121	113	118	91	109	94	109	108	109	109	112	110	125	99	119	112	114	113	102	102	102	
February)	114	126	117	125	125	125	96	115	99	114	118	115	109	113	110	132	112	128	115	124	118	105	110	106	
March)	115	130	119	127	126	127	99	118	102	115	119	116	110	112	110	133	117	129	117	126	119	106	112	108	
April)	114	129	118	129	126	128	101	114	104	119	120	120	109	111	109	130	116	125	118	125	120	107	111	108	
May)	115	128	119	127	122	125	105	116	107	120	117	119	108	111	109	127	105	122	118	123	119	107	109	108	
June)	117	128	120	126	120	124	109	115	110	119	116	118	107	110	108	123	104	119	119	122	120	107	108	108	
July)				120	127	118	124	111	121	113	115	111	115	106	113	108	120	101	115	119	120	120	108	107	108
August)				123	128	121	126	116	127	118	115	113	114	108	113	109	119	100	115	121	123	122	109	109	110
September)	not			123	132	123	129	116	125	117	114	114	114	110	116	111	121	93	114	123	124	123	111	110	111
October)	avail-			126	133	128	131	114	130	117	113	117	113	110	118	112	125	98	119	123	129	125	111	114	112
November)	able			127	135	129	133	117	124	118	114	118	114	109	118	111	126	98	120	125	130	126	113	115	113
December)				128	137	129	134	110	123	112	117	116	117	110	120	112	131	102	124	125	130	127	113	115	114
1938 - January)				123	134	116	128	98	112	100	116	117	116	109	119	111	133	115	129	122	119	122	110	105	109
February)				125	134	131	133	104	121	107	120	120	120	109	123	112	134	115	130	123	130	125	111	115	112
March)				127	139	134	137	107	120	110	119	125	120	110	119	112	136	119	132	126	133	128	113	117	114
April)				126	137	127	134	107	121	109	119	125	120	110	115	111	135	110	129	125	129	126	112	114	113
May)				126	132	128	131	110	117	111	115	122	117	109	115	110	133	112	128	123	130	125	110	114	111
Number of Factories in Sample	1901			100			150			114			92			49			2406						
Percentage of employees in sample in 1936-37	81			21			47			53			33			57			51						

- (a) The indexes for 1936-37 are based on the final factory returns. From July, 1937 the indexes have been computed on the basis of the 1936-37 final figures.
- (b) After June, 1936 indexes are based on sample returns. Thereafter male and female indexes for Australia are calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in five States, excluding New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.
- (c) Industrial dispute involving about 3,000 men.

MALES EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES

Year	New South Wales	Vic-toria	Queens-land	South Aust-ralia	Western Aust-ralia	Tas-mania	AUST-RALIA
1926-27	74.8	66.3	83.8	82.4	81.7	80.2	73.8
1927-28	74.8	66.2	83.2	82.0	81.2	77.6	73.6
1928-29	74.4	65.7	81.9	82.0	81.0	77.2	73.1
1929-30	74.1	65.1	81.9	81.7	80.3	78.2	72.7
1930-31	72.6	64.4	81.6	80.2	79.3	77.5	71.5
1931-32	70.7	62.1	80.8	78.6	77.6	76.6	69.5
1932-33	71.0	62.2	79.8	78.5	78.2	76.4	69.4
1933-34	71.5	63.2	79.7	79.8	78.9	77.9	70.2
1934-35	71.8	64.1	79.7	80.8	79.4	78.0	70.8
1935-36	72.2	65.3	80.0	81.2	80.1	78.6	71.5
1936-37	72.2	66.1	80.1	81.6	80.3	80.0	72.0
1936 - January	73.1	65.9	79.5	81.6	80.3	79.2	72.1
February	71.8	65.1	79.5	80.8	80.4	76.6	71.2
March	71.5	65.1	79.3	81.1	80.5	77.7	71.1
April	72.0	65.6	79.9	81.4	80.3	78.7	71.6
May	72.2	65.6	80.1	81.5	80.2	78.5	71.7
June	72.5	65.8	81.0	81.8	80.2	78.7	72.0
July	72.3	65.9	80.9	81.8	80.0	79.1	72.0
August	72.0	65.5	80.4	81.3	80.1	79.7	71.7
September	71.7	65.3	80.6	81.1	79.7	79.6	71.5
October	71.8	65.7	80.3	80.9	79.8	80.0	71.6
November	71.9	65.9	80.2	80.9	79.9	80.4	71.7
December	72.2	66.4	79.8	81.7	80.1	80.3	72.1
1937 - January	73.2	67.3	79.1	82.2	80.5	81.1	72.8
February	72.4	65.7	79.0	81.5	80.4	80.0	71.7
March	72.0	65.9	79.2	81.6	80.7	79.3	71.7
April	72.0	66.2	80.1	81.9	80.8	80.5	72.0
May	72.3	66.6	80.3	82.3	80.5	80.3	72.3
June	72.7	66.8	81.2	82.4	80.6	80.0	72.7
July (a)	n.a.	67.2	80.7	82.6	80.0	80.0	(b) 72.8
August	n.a.	66.9	80.5	82.3	80.3	80.1	72.6
September	n.a.	67.3	80.8	82.0	80.1	81.4	72.7
October	n.a.	66.6	80.0	81.4	80.0	81.1	72.0
November	n.a.	66.7	81.0	81.5	79.7	81.3	72.2
December	n.a.	67.1	80.1	82.2	79.7	81.2	72.4
1938 - January	n.a.	69.0	79.8	82.0	79.6	79.5	73.4
February	n.a.	66.2	79.6	82.0	79.2	79.7	71.6
March	n.a.	66.6	80.2	81.2	79.8	79.5	71.9
April	n.a.	67.4	80.0	81.3	80.3	80.5	72.5
May	n.a.	66.5	81.0	81.1	80.1	80.0	72.0

n.a. not available.

Note. - This table has been revised to exclude working proprietors.

(a) From July, 1937 the percentages are based on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories.

(b) From July, 1937 the percentage for Australia is calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in five States, excluding New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia	
							Unadjusted Index	Index divided by Index of Employee Population
Index for 1933-34	103	107	101	102	99	106	104	103
1934-35	111	118	106	108	105	108	112	110
1935-36	118	130	109	114	110	112	119	116
1936-37	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1936 - January	116	132	109	116	114	115	120	116
February	119	133	107	114	110	111	120	117
March	117	132	109	113	110	111	119	116
April	118	129	108	114	109	113	119	115
May	119	132	110	114	111	112	121	117
June	120	132	110	113	109	113	121	117
July	122	130	109	116	113	107	121	117
August	120	128	109	115	111	113	120	116
September	120	128	109	118	113	115	120	116
October	121	133	110	112	116	116	122	118
November	123	139	111	115	116	119	125	121
December	137	155	121	125	127	132	138	133
1937 - January	123	138	112	112	116	120	125	120
February	125	137	111	111	114	122	125	120
March	123	135	111	111	114	118	123	118
April	124	136	109	113	114	120	124	119
May	126	138	111	114	113	121	126	120
June	126	141	110	114	113	121	126	121
July	129	137	110	115	115	124	127	121
August	126	133	110	112	113	121	124	118
September	126	135	110	117	113	123	125	119
October	127	140	110	113	114	123	127	121
November	129	143	110	115	116	125	129	123
December	144	151	123	129	126	138	144	137
1938 - January	128	144	111	115	122	126	129	123
February	131	139	111	112	116	124	128	122
March	128	140	110	112	115	123	127	121
April	129	140	112	113	117	125	128	121
May	129	141	112	114	115	126	128	122
Number of establishments now furnishing returns	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax, and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance contributions and other sources. The results are given below -

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners (a) Including and (b) Excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of men engaged part-time on relief works.

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment.			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of all part-time relief workers		(b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934 - June ..	80.5	19.5	77.8	22.2
1935 - June ..	85.9	14.1	83.1	16.9
1936 - June ..	89.3	10.7	87.1	12.9
1937 - January ..	90.4	9.6	89.2	10.8
February ..	92.2	7.8	90.8	9.2
March ..	92.2	7.8	90.8	9.2
April ..	92.6	7.4	91.3	8.7
May ..	93.1	6.9	91.9	8.1
June ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
July ..	93.8	6.2	92.6	7.4
August ..	94.3	5.7	93.0	7.0
September ..	95.1	4.9	93.9	6.1
October ..	96.2	3.8	95.1	4.9
November ..	96.9	3.1	95.7	4.3
December ..	97.2	2.8	96.0	4.0
1938 - January ..	94.6	5.4	93.5	6.5
February ..	96.0	4.0	95.0	5.0
March ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
April ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
May ..	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2

The indexes have recently been revised. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance has now been made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made.

At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners, employed and unemployed.

The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 653,000 in June, 1937; and 686,000 in May, 1938.

QUEENSLAND

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners

Period	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Including "Intermittent Relief Workers" as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
3 months ended -				
1933 - June ..	79.0	21.0	72.9	27.1
1934 - June ..	85.0	15.0	80.2	19.8
1935 - June ..	85.9	10.1	85.2	14.8
1936 - June ..	91.8	8.2	86.4	13.6
1937 - March ..	91.4	8.6	87.8	12.2
April ..	93.6	6.4	90.0	10.0
May ..	94.0	6.0	90.3	9.7
June ..	94.3	5.7	90.5	9.5
July ..	94.5	5.5	90.7	9.3
August ..	94.9	5.1	91.2	8.8
September ..	95.0	5.0	91.4	8.6
October ..	95.2	4.8	91.5	8.5
November ..	95.2	4.8	91.7	8.3
December ..	95.5	4.5	91.9	8.1
1938 - January ..	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
February ..	95.3	4.7	91.8	8.2
March ..	95.4	4.6	91.7	8.3
April ..	95.2	4.8	91.6	8.4

The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5% in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment for the three months ended April, 1938, excluding relief workers, was 172,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT
QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1938

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are, similarly to those published in the past, derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The percentages of recorded unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole for each quarter from the June quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum, to the June quarter of 1938, are as follows:-

<u>AUSTRALIA</u>		
1932	- June quarter	30.0 per cent.
1933	- September quarter	25.1 " "
	December "	23.0 " "
1934	- March quarter	21.9 " "
	June "	20.9 " "
	September "	20.4 " "
	December "	18.8 " "
1935	- March quarter	18.6 " "
	June "	17.8 " "
	September "	15.9 " "
	December "	13.7 " "
1936	- March quarter	13.4 " "
	June "	12.8 " "
	September "	12.0 " "
	December "	10.7 " "
1937	- March quarter	9.9 " "
	June "	9.7 " "
	September "	9.3 " "
	December "	8.2 " "
1938	- March quarter	8.0 " "
	June "	8.6 " "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of May, 1938.

The percentages given above show that after an almost continuous rise since the March quarter, 1929, when the rate was 9.3 per cent., to the peak point (30 per cent.) in unemployment attained in the June quarter, 1932, there was a continuous decline to the March quarter, 1938, (8 per cent.) with a slight rise (6 per 1000 members) for the June quarter, 1938, mainly due to increased unemployment in Group I (Timber, etc.) and Group III (Food, drink etc.), though the majority of industrial groups registered small increases.

From the peak the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the September quarter of 1932, and in the following two quarters the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per thousand in the December quarter of 1932, and 16 per thousand in the March quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 8.6 per cent. for the June quarter of 1938. With the exception of that for the March quarter, 1938 (8.0%), this is the lowest percentage of unemployment since August, 1927, when it was 6.7 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 214 per 1000 members, i.e. from 30.0 per cent. in May, 1932 to 8.6 per cent. in May, 1938.

This improvement since May, 1932, has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1000 members) - South Australia, 277; Western Australia, 250; New South Wales, 234; Victoria, 192; Tasmania, 170; Queensland, 127.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA

Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number and Percentage of Unemployed

March quarter, 1929 to June quarter, 1938

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	June Quarter 1937	Dec. Quarter 1937	March Quarter 1938	June Quarter 1938
Number of Unions	375	396	394	394	387	387	386	386
Membership	420,756	413,742	415,559	422,113	447,714	455,608	462,918	464,208
Unemployed - Number	39,159	124,068	106,652	88,413	43,584	37,558	37,111	39,824
Percentage	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	9.7	8.2	8.0	8.6

STATES

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions Reported as Unemployed in each State

March quarter, 1929 to June quarter, 1938

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	June Quarter 1937	Dec. Quarter 1937	March Quarter 1938	June Quarter 1938
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	29.6	25.0	11.4	10.1	9.6	9.8
Victoria	8.6	27.7	23.0	18.0	9.6	7.3	7.3	8.5
Queensland	7.1	19.9	15.6	12.7	7.6	6.6	6.6	7.2
South Australia	13.2	35.2	30.0	25.4	8.3	6.5	6.9	7.5
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	18.3	5.6	5.0	4.8	5.3
Tasmania	8.7	27.4	19.0	17.9	10.4	10.2	8.8	10.4
TOTAL	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	9.7	8.2	8.0	8.6

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